Gazette

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# Town may alter rules for its gay employees

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BRECKENRIDGE** • Breckenridge government employees would be protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation under a change in employment policies being considered by the Town Council.

The council decided against such a change last year after Town Attorney Tim Berry advised officials to abide by a policy prohibiting discrimination based on age, gender, race, color, religion or national origin.

Adding sexual orientation might open the town to litigation, Berry said at the time.

Mayor Ernie Blake said Tuesday he is concerned the town's insurance policy might not cover court judgments in lawsuits over sexual orientation. Another concern is that coverage could be dropped altogether.

Michelle Hoffman of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays said governments in Silverthorne, Dillon and Summit County include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies and have had no problems.

A majority of the council, which includes four new members since last year, said during a work session Tuesday that the town should explicitly bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Councilwoman J.B. Katz said she initially opposed the idea because she was afraid it would expose the town to lawsuits, but she has changed her mind.

"I suspect we might be sued, but it's the cost of doing the right thing," she said.

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**BEVERLY BENDER, 50, Deercreek neighborhood, north Colorado Springs**

This summer has been unreal with all the storms. Every other week, there's a cloud show outside. (This week) we looked up, and there was a circulation of layers in the sky, just swirling. I became alarmed. One looked like there was a spaceship in the sky. These were green to maroon and golden, all kind of over in the east.